Damage to bridges and rail tracks due to floods

†3483. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has made any assessment of damage to bridges and rail tracks due to floods in the year 2004 and 2005:

(b) whether bridges and rail tracks are inspected prior to rains; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. As per these assessments, damages to track & bridges to the tune of approximately Rs. 33 Crore & Rs. 60 Crore occurred during the year 2004 and 2005 respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir. All the Railway bridges and tracks are inspected as per well laid down schedule & procedure in Codes and Manuals of Railways.

(c) Does not arise.

Heritage on Wheels

3484. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to start soon a new train "Heritage on Wheels" on the lines of "Palace on Wheels" in collaboration with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC);

(b) if so, the areas that would be covered by the new train, the details of agreement between the two partners in the venture, the nature of comfort proposed to be provided to the passengers, and the tariff therefor; and

(c) by when the train is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.